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Turner Believes Russia Wants To Be THE Dominant Power

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WASHINGTON — CIA Director Stansfield Turner believes the Soviet Union wants to become "the dominant global power" and is building up its military forces to achieve that objective.

Turner said he meant "the" dominant power, not just "a" dominant power.

The newly installed CIA chief said the Soviets are increasing their military strength to make up for their economic, technological and ideological shortcomings.

Turner gave this hard-line assessment of Soviet intentions to a group of reporters yesterday in a one-hour interview. It was a harsher view of Soviet intentions than the previous director, George Bush, had given, at least in such interview sessions.

Turner also said The Washington Post disclosure of secret CIA payments to King Hussein of Jordan has "vastly impaired" the confidence of foreign leaders that they can carry on secret operations for the United States. He and Atty. Gen. Griffin B. Bell met Tuesday to discuss legislation to replace or amend the 60-year-old espionage law, which Turner called "not very effective" in preventing leaks of classified information.

WHILE TURNER said he would be "amenable" to criminal penalties for the leakers, President Carter said at his press conference that he would prefer to minimize use of criminal sanctions and concentrate on prevention.

Carter, who attended Turner's swearing-in yesterday, told CIA employees they face "a most difficult conflict" between openness and the need for secrecy. He called for a closer relationship between the CIA and its "customers" — the President, Secretary of Defense and Congress.

Turner, an active Navy admiral, has been in office since last week. He found CIA morale "battered" by unfavorable disclosures the past two and one-half years but bouncing back in a "professional and resilient" manner.

His assessment of Soviet intentions may be important in Carter's approach

to the Kremlin on issues such as arms control.

"I don't think they (the Soviets) will make any agreement in arms control that will not have an offsetting political advantage to them," Turner said. He added that this was understandable and "not improper."

AS TO WHAT political advantage they might seek, Turner replied that the Russians would like to have a permanent limit on West German military power because they are "paranoid" about another attack from that quarter.

Turner said he views with "alarm" a recent CIA report stating that the Soviet Union is spending about 13 percent of its gross national product on military items, twice as much as previously believed.

While Bush took the view that the Russians were merely spending twice as much without getting substantially more military force, Turner said the extra rubles have been buying "considerable improvement" in the Soviet army, navy and air force. Turner mentioned new Soviet tanks and a carrier, but not nuclear weapons, which may have been Bush's primary focus.

Turner said the Kremlin leaders have a "19th century" view of power, believing that they can use massive military power to impress the world with their dominance.

"THE SOVIETS are well behind us economically, and unlikely to close that gap," he said. "They are behind us technologically and working hard to close that. They think they are ahead of us ideologically, but actually are falling behind. Therefore they're trying to make up for it in military power."

Expanding on his belief of Soviet Communist ideological decline, Turner said, "I look around the world today and I say, 'Who is a Marxist?'" He distinguished between Soviet communism and "Euro-communism" such as in Yugoslavia.

Turner said the payments to Hussein were not improper and had been approved by former President Ford and the Intelligence Oversight Board. He said he does not know if they have been continued or resumed.

The new intelligence chief said he was looking at a number of such operations to see if they could be shifted from covert to open activities.